

BLEASE DISBANDS MILITIA OF STATE

**Governor Says Difference
Between Secretaries of
War and Navy and Ad-
jutant Moore and Him-
self Prompted Him to
Take This Step.**

The organized militia of South Carolina was disbanded by an order signed at 2 o'clock today by Governor Blease.

Governor Blease explained this action in the order, stating that the arising of differences between the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy and Adjutant General Moore, on one side, and himself on the other, prompted him to take this step. These differences said the chief executive, resulted in serious breaches of discipline in the militia corps.

"The present governor of the State of South Carolina is of the opinion that it would be unfair and unjust on his part to turn over to his successor in office the militia of South Carolina in its present condition," the order read.

Governor Blease expressed the opinion in the order, that South Carolina had made a mistake in becoming a part of the National Guard under what is commonly known as the Dick law.

About 3,000 men are effected by this order, who are organized into 3 militia regiments, four divisions of coast artillery and various hospital and sanitary corps.

The militia was commanded by Adjutant General W. W. Moore, of Barnwell, whose official position is not affected by the executive order. Governor Blease, however, was command-in-chief ex-officio, of the militia, the three militia regiments were commanded by officers with the rank of colonel. General Willie Jones, of Columbia, was brigadier-general of the South Carolina corps. Headquarters of the first infantry regiment were at Yorkville, of the second regiment at Columbia, and of the third at Charleston.

Coast artillery corps divisions were located at Charleston, Sullivan's Island, Beaufort and Georgetown, and each had an approximate strength of 60 men and officers.

The three infantry regiments had enlisted strength of about 560 men each, commanded each by about 50 officers.

Friction which Governor Blease referred to in his order disbanding the militia corps arose about two years ago, and, according to reports of the adjutant general, resulted in a marked decrease in discipline of the troops.

The cause of this controversy between Governor Blease and Adjutant General Moore was said to have been the result of the refusal of the governor to sign certain orders and official papers presented him by the adjutant general.

The secretary of war and the secretary of the navy became parties to this controversy, according to official statements, when the matter of accounting for about \$100,000 worth of federal property these federal departments claimed had been lost and destroyed by the militia organizations was held up. An accounting of this property was begun about a year ago and was a few weeks ago completed, and the completed reports were said today to be prepared for the signature of Governor Blease.

Tensity of the situation between the adjutant general's office and the offices of secretary of war and secretary of navy, on one side, and of Governor Blease, on the other, was greatly increased last summer when the governor refused to permit the militia troops to participate in the annual encampment, ordered by the chief of the division of militia affairs, at Governor's Island, New York. This action of Governor Blease, according to statements from the adjutant general's office resulted in appropriations by congress aggregating about \$55,000 for maintenance and equipment of the South Carolina militia being held up by the war department pending settlement of these differences.

While this controversy involving State and federal military officers was at its height last summer, the war department ordered the disbanding of several companies of militia, which were declared, following annual inspections, to be inefficient. Though definite information could not be obtained today, it was understood that these companies were never disbanded, through, it was said, refusal of Governor Blease to sign the disbanding order.

Adjutant General Moore, in his report to the general assembly convening here tomorrow, stated that the militia corps of this State, with few exceptions were inefficient, and in a number of instances almost demoralized. This inefficiency was noticeable in all departments and in all branches

AID SOUGHT FOR BELGIANS

**Chairman of Relief Fund of
County Urged to Hasten the
Work—Principals of Schools,
Merchants and Every Citizen
Urged to Help.**

Mr. E. Nicholson, chairman of the Belgian Relief movement for Union county has recently received a letter from R. W. Holcomb, treasurer, urging that the work of relief be pressed with vigor. Shipping instructions have been sent, and the urgency of the need emphasized. The school children and the merchants, and in fact all other citizens are called upon to make earnest effort to help this cause.

The plan is to have South Carolina provide a whole cargo of provisions and clothing. The steamship Lincluden has been chartered and will sail on or about January 25. It carries a cargo of about 500 carloads. It will require some 6,000 tons of freight to fill her holds.

For full particulars as to shipping and any other information necessary may be obtained from Mr. Emslie Nicholson, chairman for Union county. The time is short; the cargo is not nearly assembled. What is done must be done quickly.

Death of a Good Man.

Mr. M. C. Feaster, one of the county's best known and most widely respected citizens, passed away at his home six miles east of Union last Friday morning at 7:45 o'clock, and his body was laid to rest at Beulah Baptist church cemetery on Saturday at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Feaster had been in declining health for some time, and the end was no surprise to his friends who were informed as to his condition. He was sixty-five years of age and leaves a wife and one son, Mr. W. L. Feaster, principal of the Lancaster graded schools, to mourn his death.

Mr. Feaster was a man of the highest integrity, and his life was worthily lived. He was a good citizen, a faithful husband and father and a Christian of irreproachable character.

Change in Appointments.

Rev. D. W. Garvin requests us to announce that hereafter he will not preach at Duck Pond on the third Sunday afternoon as heretofore, but will preach there each fourth Sunday at 11 o'clock and each second Sunday at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. He will also preach at the Knitting Mill Baptist church each fourth Sunday at 3 o'clock p. m., and 7 p. m. Also each second Sunday at 11 o'clock and 7 o'clock p. m. Also each 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. at Mon-Aetna. The above holds good until further notice.

of militia activity, the report stated in substance.

Adjutant General Makes Brief Comment.

Adjutant and Inspector General W. W. Moore was not informed of the governor's action until communicated with at his residence in the afternoon. He made brief comment, stating that he might have a more extended statement later.

"I haven't had time to look into the matter," said General Moore, "but you may say that the action of the governor in this instance is but a repetition of his attitude toward my administration during the past two years, and I am not at all surprised. His action, I feel, will be as satisfactory to the majority of the officers of the militia as it is to me. I believe it is about time for the militia to reorganize, anyway. At present, I have nothing further to say," concluded the adjutant and inspector general.—Tuesday's Columbia Record.

Tillman Says Be Calm About Militia Order.

"Everybody sit quiet in the boat until Governor Blease's term expires," advises Senator B. R. Tillman, commenting upon Blease's order disbanding the state militia.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12, 1915.

"Members of the South Carolina delegation have received various telegrams from different officers in the militia about Governor Blease's remarkable order disbanding the South Carolina militia. Consultation with the secretary of war leads me to advise that the militia do nothing but be prepared to quell riots if any occur as citizens under orders of the sheriff. Everybody sit quietly in the boat until Governor Blease's term expires, when Governor Manning will take charge of the situation.

"B. R. TILLMAN,
"United States Senator."

TWELVE THOUSAND DIE AS EARTH TREMBLES

**Italy Ravaged By Shock Which Slays and Damages.
One Village is Wiped Out—Historic Buildings
in Rome Shaken and Partially
Wrecked By Tremors.**

Rome, Jan. 13.—Italy has been visited by an earthquake of wide extent, which, according to the latest advices, has resulted in the death of 12,000 and injury to possibly 20,000 more in towns and villages destroyed. The shock was the strongest Rome has felt in more than 100 years.

The towns of Avezzano, in the Abruzzi department, 63 miles east of Rome, has been leveled to the ground and here 8,000 persons are reported to have been killed.

In many small towns surrounding Rome buildings were partially wrecked, while at Naples a panic occurred and houses fell at Caserta, a short distance to the east.

From below Naples in the south to Ferers in the north, a distance of more than 300 miles, and across almost the width of the country, the undulatory movement continued for a considerable period.

In Rome it was thought at first that two shocks had occurred, but the seismographic instruments in the observatories showed there was only one, which, beginning at 7:55 o'clock in the morning, lasted from 22 to 30 seconds.

In the capital itself, so far as known, there was no loss of life, but a great deal of damage was done, churches and statues suffering most. For a time the people were stricken with fear and there was a veritable panic in hospitals, monasteries and

convents.

Buildings on both sides of the Porta del Popolo, the north entrance to Rome, threatened to fall and the eagle de cora at the gate crashed to the ground. The obelisk in St. Peter's square was shaken and badly damaged, while the statue of St. John Lateran and the statues of the Apostles surmounting the basilica are in danger of collapsing. The famous colonnade decorating St. Peter's square was lowered four feet and the adjacent house, once occupied by the sisters of Pope Pius X, was badly cracked.

Owing to the wide extent of the disturbance and its evident terrible consequences, the actual effects are not at present known. Communications are cut off. The fortified city of Aquila is isolated but it is reported several villages in that region were destroyed. Likewise, Potenza, capital of the Apennines, which has a population of nearly 20,000, has been isolated. In 1857 this town was almost destroyed by an earthquake.

Father Alfani, director of the observatory di Pompeii, has sent the following telegram to Rome:

"The earthquake registered by our apparatus appears to have been most disastrous for a radius of more than 300 miles. Probably its centre was the province of Potenza. Meanwhile communications with Potenza are interrupted and a grave disaster there is feared."

GOING TO LEAD CAROLINA TEAM

**Big Fellow From Union is Football
Captain—Plays Tackle and End.**

(Thursday's State.)

O. Going, tackle and end on the Carolina varsity, has been elected captain of the university's football team for next year. This was done yesterday at a meeting of the varsity.

Going is known as "Big" Going. He is from Union and has played two seasons on the university varsity. Last year he was a guard and tackle and end. He is a great big fellow, as his nickname would indicate, and handles himself well. He is especially good on tackle and will likely play that position next season. Going knows football and will make the Gamecocks a good leader. He is popular with his teammates and among the student body at large.

Last year (1913) at the first of the season there was a gap in the Carolina line which had to be filled before the annual game with Clemson at the State fair. There was a great fight for the guard position and O. Going won out. He played magnificent ball in this, his first varsity game, and he continued his good work in the succeeding games. After the Clemson game of that year he was shifted to tackle when McGowan went to quarter. This year Going played for the first part of the season at tackle but in the last few games was seen on end.

Envoy McAbee's Work.

In the "War Cry," the official organ of the Salvation Army, appears the following writup of the city of Union and the work of the army under the supervision of Envoy McAbee:

The City of Union.

The captain has not confined his efforts to Spartanburg, but has carried his message to the streets of the neighboring towns of Gaffney, Woodruff, Inman, Cowpens, Greers, Union and others. Most important of these outlying fields is Union, S. C., a city of some 10,000 population. The city is the county-seat of Union county and the metropolis and distributing point of a very large district. It is rapidly developing into a most important cotton manufacturing centre. The combined Union-Buffalo Mills here, with 151,500 spindles and 4,150 looms, are the largest in the South and among the largest in the country. The Monarch Mills have 41,500 spindles and 1,000 looms, and the Ottaway mills 22,000 spindles and 600 looms. The Southern Cotton Oil company has a big plant here. Union is a city of large ambitions; its public improvements are advancing rapidly; its population is increasing in a large ratio.

Envoy and Mrs. McAbee, who make their home here, are responsible for the work in Union. Their work on the streets has produced a large measure of visible good. The people of the city are with one accord friendly and anxious to manifest their friendliness in practical forms.

A lake of fire and brimstone isn't the only hell ever invented. There is the case of the man who had a \$50 wife and a \$15 salary.—Newberry Observer.

BLEASE RESIGNS

As we are going to press Thursday afternoon the news was received in the Union that Governor Blease had resigned as governor and that Chas. A. Smith had been sworn in as governor. Governor Blease signed his resignation at 12 o'clock Thursday in the presence of a considerable number of his friends whom he had invited to witness the occasion. No reason was given for this unheard of, spectacular action.

FIVE MANSLAYERS GIVEN CLEMENCY

Five manslaughterers received clemency yesterday from the governor of South Carolina. Since assuming office the governor has granted clemency in 1,681 cases. This number does not include the 1,000 pardons granted last week.

The life sentence of John Henry May, who was convicted in Union in May, 1912, on the charge of murder with recommendation to mercy, was reduced to two and one-half years. On January 30 of last year the sentence was cut to 20 years. The commutation yesterday will liberate May, who is confined on the Union county farm.—Wednesday's State.

Moves to Pacolet.

Mr. E. Z. Hodge and family left Wednesday morning for Trough, where they have accepted a position with the Pacolet Manufacturing company. Mr. Hodge has been in Union for the past twelve years, holding positions at Buffalo, Union and Ottaway. We regret to see them leave but wish them much success in their new home.

Will Hold Banquet.

The Baraca class of the Sunday school of the First Baptist church will hold their annual banquet in the church parlors Thursday night, January 21. These occasions are looked forward to with pleasure by the entire class, which numbers nearly 100 young men. This class is a great force for good in the community, and is constantly engaged in some benevolent work, as well as carrying on a regular course of study, meeting each Sunday in the year in regular class.

The class is educating two Christian workers, besides contributing to many other worthy causes. It is about the most wide-awake organization in the city.

Married.

Miss Effie Faucett of Union, S. C. and Dr. C. H. Workman of Chappells, S. C., were married on January 9 at Chappells, S. C., the Rev. G. T. Asbill officiating.—Newberry Observer.

Mrs. Workman is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Munro Faucett and is a young woman of many accomplishments. Her friends here and throughout the county wish for her much happiness.

MESSAGE REVIEWS EVENTS OF YEAR

CONTROVERSY AS TO VALUE

**Question Raised by Blease as to
Worth of the Estate of the
Late Robert D. Coleman—
Auditor Receives Message
From Blease's Secretary.**

**Governor's Secretary Submits Tele-
gram Requiring Amount of the
Estate of Robt. Coleman.**

In your issue of Saturday morning, January 9, 1915, page 8, column 2, in commenting on the pardon granted by his excellency, Gov. Blease, to one Harry Coleman, you state:

"Young Man Heir to Estate Worth \$10,000."

Upon reading your article, I sent the following telegram:

"Columbia, S. C., January 9, 1915. County Auditor, Union County, Union, S. C.

"Please wire me at once amount of estate left by Robert or R.D. Coleman, father of Harry Coleman. Please be absolutely accurate in your figures.

(Signed) "W. F. Blackburn, Private Secretary."

And received the following reply:

Union, S. C., Jan. 9, 1915.

"Mr. W. F. Blackburn, Private Secretary, Columbia, S. C.

"Estate of R. D. Coleman, 1913, real estate \$1,090. Nothing on books of 1914.

(Signed) "T. J. Betenbaugh, County Auditor, Union County."

I presume, in justice to Gov. Blease, and to correct an erroneous impression created among the readers of your paper, you will give the same prominence to this communication that you did in the article above mentioned.

W. F. Blackburn, Private Secretary, Columbia, S. C., January 10, 1915.

(In November of last year, when Harry Coleman's long lost brother, Roland Coleman, was located in Ohio, the Union correspondent of The State reported, on the authority of counsel and county officials interested, that the estate of Robert D. Coleman which had come into the possession of his son, Harry Coleman, comprised "200 acres of land worth \$40 or \$50 an acre," as well as "some cash and valuable papers.")—The State.

Auditor Thos. J. Betenbaugh received a message from W. F. Blackburn, private secretary of Cole L. Blease, recently, asking for definite information as to the amount of the estate left by Robert D. Coleman. The inquiry was made because of the account of Harry Coleman's release from prison as published in The Columbia State. The following is a clipping from The State of January 9:

From time to time in writing of the death of R. D. Coleman and of the subsequent trial and conviction of Harry Coleman, his son, as the man guilty of murder, the estate was constantly referred to by newspaper correspondents as being worth \$8,000 or \$10,000. There are 200 acres of land and the buildings and outhouses thereon are of considerable value. The State's correspondent has never heard any one put the value of this land below \$40 per acre. Many have put the valuation considerably above that figure. At the time of the death of Robert Coleman it was commonly reported that he left at least \$1,000 in cash and some few papers that were of value. The value put on the 200 acres of land is practically correct. While the auditor's books may and do show no more than \$1,000, this valuation is perhaps the valuation that would have been just a number of years ago. To show that \$40 an acre is not too high a valuation, it is found that there are mortgages aggregating \$3,768 now on record against this same home place of 200 acres of land. There is one mortgage given by Harry Coleman, dated August 1, 1913, for \$500. This mortgage is recorded in Book Mortgages S-22, page 228.

There is a second mortgage for \$1,300, given by Harry Coleman and recorded in Book Mortgages S-22, page 188; the date of the mortgage is February 28, 1913. At a subsequent date Harry Coleman deeded the place to Calvin C. Alexander and his wife, Mary Alexander; these in turn gave a subsequent mortgage over the place for \$1,968, making a total sum in the three mortgages of \$3,768; this third mortgage is in Book S-22, page 339. Every one of these mortgages remains uncanceled on the clerk's books and were given to responsible and wide-awake business men. It is a well (Continued on last page.)

**Scissors Used Freely in
Compiling Document—
Hints at Peonage—A
Sketch of Governor's
Family and His Own
Career Fills Many Pages.**

(Wednesday's State.)

The governor of South Carolina, in framing his last annual message to the general assembly, which was presented yesterday on the convening of the two houses, made liberal use of scissors and paste pot. The document consists largely in quotations from various sources.

The governor reviews his administration during the past year and makes some suggestions. The deliverance is not so violent as previous messages. He discusses the State's obligations, the extension of the time for the payment of taxes, taxation, the State's institutions, free scholarships, the Medical College of South Carolina, the hosiery mill, the tuberculosis hospital, the general business conditions, the State's prosperity, economy of the administration, the common schools, alleged federal encroachment upon State rights, auditing of accounts of State officers, immigration, State levy, former convicts. In conclusion the governor gives an account of his family, "written by a friend."

Hints at Peonage.

Under the head of "Former Convicts," the following statement is contained in the message:

"It has been reported and rumored, whether true or not I do not know, and therefore am not in a position to state, that some former convicts are held and required to work in payment of efforts used to secure their release. If this is true, it is a great pity that any man would be guilty of such conduct—a great pity that he would so treat one of his unfortunate fellow beings. I, therefore, recommend that you investigate this matter in order to ascertain if there are any former convicts being so held, either on the farms of any of the dictors of the State penitentiary or any of the officials of the State penitentiary or anywhere else, by anybody."

The governor in the beginning of the message refers to his refusal to sign notes for a loan of \$150,000 to meet the current expenses of the government. He declares that there is plenty of money in the State treasury. He also refers to the extension of the time for the payment of State taxes, which was ordered by the comptroller general with the approval of the governor.

In the message, under the head of taxation, it is stated that the people are "tax-ridden."

"It is a crying shame and a disgrace that our people should have to pay the amount of taxes which they are now paying and receive so little for their money."

Farm Demonstration Work.

The farm demonstration work as conducted in this State by Clemson college and the United States department of agriculture is heavily scored by the governor.

Concerning the work, the chief executive says:

"The farmers who are the backbone of this State are treated as if they were a set of ignoramuses, or plain fools, to be more explicit and emphatic. There are now being sent around over the State people called 'farm demonstrators,' who are being paid large salaries out of the taxpayers' pockets, and who are giving absolutely no return for the money. The very idea of a man being paid a salary and his expenses to go around and tell the farmers the necessity for them to plant grain, to raise hogs, to diversify crops." The governor charges that "in many instances these men use their offices for political purposes, going around to act the political henchmen of somebody and they are of absolutely no service in the world to the farmers of the State." These demonstration agents are largely paid out of the funds of the United States government.

It is charged in the message that the State institutions of higher learning are being supported "entirely too extravagantly." "What good is Clemson as an agricultural institution?" asks the chief executive. After denouncing the college in the severest terms the governor declares that he would do nothing individually "to hurt or cripple the college." He says many representatives of one family are being educated free in State colleges.

The work of the South Carolina Medical college at Charleston is highly praised by the governor. It was started during his administration. He believes that the college will prove of greater benefit to the State than any of the other State schools.

The governor quotes statistics to (Continued on last page.)